YELLOWSTONE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS: Carbon, Custer, Dawson, Park, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Yellowstone, McKenzie County North Dakota, MACD, RAC Chairman

Meeting Minutes -- December 13, 2007

MSU-Billings College of Business - Room 163

Members Present: Don Youngbauer, Rosebud CD/MACD; Paul Gilbert, Sweet Grass CD; Phil Fox, Treasure CD; Bob Hector, Yellowstone CD; Steve Story, Stillwater CD; Walter Rolf, Custer CD; Jerry O'Hair, Park CD; John Moorhouse, RAC Chairman and Orvin Finsaas, McKenzie ND, CD.

Others Present: Warren Kellogg, NRCS/TAC; Burt Williams, TNC/TAC; Robert Lubbers, YRF/RAC; Jim Robinson, DNRC/TAC; Susan Gilbertz, MSU Billings/TAC; Boris Krizek, RAC; Ken Sambor, NGP-Joint Venture; Mack Cole, RAC; Liz Ching, Baucus Office, Jerry Hanson, prospective RAC member; Nicole McClain, YRCDC Coordinator; Kelly Norwood, Project Assistant; Laurie Kelley, Rosebud CD; and Carol Watts, Custer CD Administrator.

Chairman Don Youngbauer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am on Thursday, December 13, 2007. Introductions were made.

<u>NGP- Joint Venture</u>: Warren introduced Ken Sambor and stated that he had attended the TAC meeting. Ken Sambor represents the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture saying that his area covered the Missouri River in North and South Dakota west to the mountains in Montana and Wyoming which includes the Yellowstone River. The joint Venture began in the 1980s based upon the key areas of North America for water fowl production. Partnerships were formed to work on wetland conservation to enhance wetlands and other projects. The Joint Venture seeks to help the USFWS fulfill their obligations for migratory bird conservation on an international basis.

An invitation was extended to the Council to attend a Joint Venture meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota next summer to explain what the YRCDC is doing. He asked how the Joint Venture could help the Council, and he was looking forward to a partnership with the Council.

<u>TAC Report:</u> (See the attached notes) Warren stated that Ken Sambor had attended the TAC meeting earlier in the week. Warren thanked Don Youngbauer and Will Alexander for representing the Council at the TAC meetings. Warren had a printed summary of items for the Council to be briefed on and he asked for the Council's comments on the summary.

<u>Channel Migration Zone mapping update:</u> Karin Boyd gave a presentation on the channel migration mapping that she and Tony Thatcher are working on. It is hoped that the mapping will be a useful tool in doing 310 permit applications as well as other floodplain development planning. The maps for Custer County and Yellowstone County were available for review. The other counties maps will be ready by the February meeting.

<u>Fisheries scope of work</u>: The purpose of this scope of work will be to characterize habitat that the fish species use in the Yellowstone River and link that usage to either natural or human induced changes over time. Secondary channels of the river where it is braided will get special attention. Species and abundance of fish will be studied. Dr. Bramblett of MSU-Bozeman will lead the study. The total cost is \$345,000.00. MSU will contribute \$90,000.00 of in-kind services. The COE is committed to putting \$70,000.00 to get this study started in FFY 2008 and will insert additional funds in future years as their budget allows. Bob Hector made a motion to accept the draft fisheries scope of work, John Moorhouse seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

<u>Fisheries Habitat work order #5 (GIS Service Contract):</u> Warren requested that the Council approve Work Order #5 that is basically doing GIS mapping of changes in fisheries habitat during the years of the 1950s, 1976-1977 and 2001 with a budget of \$26,000.00. This work order falls under the GIS contract with DTM Consulting. Paul Gilbert made a motion to approve the work order, Bob Hector seconded and the motion carried by voice vote. The funding source is the YRCDC's RDGP-05 grant with DNRC.

<u>Riparian Mapping work order #6 (GIS Contract)</u>: Also under the GIS contract Warren asked for approval of Work Order #6 which includes GIS mapping of changes in riparian vegetation in the years of the 50s, 1976-77 and 2001. This work order will

cost \$49,000.00 and is funded by the RDGP-05 grant. Phil Fox made a motion to accept this work order, Steve Story seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.

Wetlands scope of work: Warren stated that there were two options presented in the draft wetland scope of work. The first option would be based on what we need now to complete the CES at a cost of \$175,000.00 with \$44,000.00 match from the National Heritage program and the second option would be one that would provide full wetland mapping at an additional cost of \$67,000.00. The TAC is recommending for the second option other wetland entities/agencies should contribute funds. This scope of work will determine how wetlands have changed over time and how natural or human based forces influence the amount and value of wetlands into the future. A motion to approve was not given and Nicole McClain as Coordinator was directed to send out packets with the full draft wetlands scope for the Council member's review. The scope of work will be added to the January agenda.

<u>Pryor Creek Fish passage</u>: The TAC recommends the feasibility study the BOR completed earlier on the Pryor Creek fish passage be reviewed by the Montana FW&P to determine the fisheries value if the channel were opened up for fish passage. The study had proposed a siphon under the creek which would cost \$600,000.00. Other less expensive options were also listed in the first BOR report. Warren suggested that a formal request be made to MTFWP to look at Pryor Creek's current and potential fisheries in order to decide whether a fish passage project is worth the expense. John Moorhouse made a motion that the Council makes a request to MTFWP to complete a fisheries assessment on Pryor Creek. Walter Rolf seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

<u>City of Glendive Position Paper</u>: The position paper has been reviewed several times but no changes were made. Warren suggested that the YRCDC adopt the position paper. Paul Gilbert requested that the BNSF be added to the list of participating entities. Phil Fox also had some minor grammatical changes to be made, which the Council approved. Paul Gilbert made a motion to accept the position paper with the changes made. Jerry O'Hair seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.

<u>Russian olive BMP Implementation Strategy</u>: Warren stated that the voluntary BMP on Russian olive should have an implementation plan. John Moorhouse from the YRCDC/RAC reviewed the draft Russian olive BMP Implementation Strategy. Steve Story commented that there are things that could be done in the local conservation districts. John Moorhouse suggested that Council members adopt the strategy.

BOR representative on TAC: Warren recommended that Clayton Jordan be appointed as a TAC member replacing Brent Esplin from the BOR. Steve Story made a motion to accept Clayton Jordan as a TAC member, Paul Gilbert seconded and the motion carried by voice vote. Warren also noted that Scott Rickard will be leaving the TAC and the TAC is looking for a replacement for him who will help with the economics scope of work. The TAC would like someone with an economic background to succeed him

<u>Fish Screen Request</u>: Roger Perkins of Aquoneering has contacted Pat Riley about having the YRCDC sponsor a gate system with louvers in front of a pumping station that would keep juvenile fish, sediment, and debris from the pump site. Pat Riley, DNRC, could fund the project with grant money available through their irrigation development program. The TAC suggests that the demonstration is probably a good idea, but the Council needs to be careful about the irrigation system where the pump site is located. A candidate location should be chosen that will reflect what the Council is promoting in regard to development within the mapped channel zone. Phil Fox commented that our role would be to support the concept, not the product.

RAC Update: John Moorhouse reported on the Russian olive removal demonstration that was held at the Cole ranch in November. Jeff Mosely of MSU and the Treasure and Rosebud Conservation Districts conducted the meeting. Jeff Mosely spoke about the pros and cons of Russian olive. After lunch a demonstration of the equipment was given. At this meeting Nicole showed slides of the project. The project was a big success and John encouraged other districts to hold demonstrations. Mack Cole commented that maintenance follow up after removal is very important.

John Moorhouse spoke about the Russian olive implementation strategy that would accompany the Russian olive BMP. He said that the objectives are to prevent the spread of Russian olive trees along the Yellowstone River; encourage special management zones within the valley where the need is high; and work to initiate small demonstration projects along the Yellowstone River. Council members had a draft of the plan included in their packets. A one page brochure may be produced that would be specific to the Yellowstone River and would state the best management practices along with information about the plant. Agencies and land owners will be contacted to help spread the information and discourage planting of Russian olive. It will be suggested that nurseries take the Russian olive off of their plant list.

John Moorhouse made a motion to accept the draft as the final Russian olive implementation strategy, Bob Hector seconded and the motion carried. Nicole asked that conservation districts be added to the list of entities to be contacted with the Russian olive BMP information.

Jerry Hanson's nomination to the RAC as a member at large was considered next. Bob Hector recommended that the Council accept the nomination. Paul Gilbert made the motion to accept Jerry Hanson as a member at large on the RAC, Bob Hector seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

John Moorhouse said recruitment for the RAC was still needed and he suggested looking at the RAC constitution. He would like to convene the RAC and get their thoughts and recommendations. The Council granted permission for John to do this.

Business meeting: Carol Watts presented the financial reports. The financial statement shows all of the activity in the checking account since the last meeting, and the grant statement shows the status of the current grants. There were no questions asked and the report was accepted and filed for audit with Paul Gilbert making the motion to accept the reports, Orvin Finsaas seconding, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Nicole presented the proposed budget of operating expenses for the pass through grant. She had talked to Jim Robinson and he believed that some of the travel expenses for the RAC/TAC as well as one regular meeting covering BMPs could be covered by the RDGP-05 grant. Nicole will need to provide Rick Duncan with a budget and get approval. Carol explained that by doing this we would be able to take Karin Boyd's expenses out of the BBTU grant and that money could be used for MRRIC expenses. It was first believed that there would be no travel expenses incurred for MRRIC but Dave Schwarz did submit a voucher. There is no money in the budget for MRRIC.

Walter Rolf made a motion to accept the pass through budget, Paul Gilbert seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

Carol commented that the medical benefit for Nicole and Kelly was increased at the October meeting of the Custer County Conservation District, pending Council approval of the pass-through budget.

The October 18, 2007 tele-conference minutes were approved with John Moorhouse making the motion to accept the minutes, Bob Hector seconded, and the motion carried.

Updates:

<u>Coordinator's Report:</u> The Coordinator's report was included in the packets the Council members received before the meeting. Nicole commented that it was basically a report of where she had been and what she had been doing. She still needs to visit Prairie, Dawson, and Richland CDs.

The annual report was discussed, Nicole stated that she had received comments back and made some changes. Another suggestion was made that the financial spreadsheets should be similar to those in DNRC's annual report due their simplicity. Nicole will make the final changes and the report will be presented to the Council for approval at the January meeting.

The new display was funded by the 238 watershed grant was on display and comments were made. This grant expires December 31, 2007, so it is important for the draft to be approved at this meeting. The first set of three roll-up panels shows general information about the YRCDC. The second set of three roll-up panels features information about the geomorphic assessment. It is intended to convey information about some basic aspects of the geomorphic study. Discussion followed and it was decided that the second display was too technical for the average person. Jim Robinson explained that second display was meant to be used for educational purposes. However, it was agreed that more detail could be added to make it easier to understand and then it could be used for presentations to demonstrate what the Council is doing with this scope of work. Jim Robinson was asked to tie it together so people could understand where the pictures were taken and what the study involved. It was also suggested that handouts are made available with the display when it is used. Paul Gilbert made a motion to accept the plan for the displays, Orvin Finsaas seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

WRDA/Update: Don Youngbauer told the Council that he and Nicole had gone to the Billings offices of Baucus, Tester and Rehberg. They thanked them for the 1.1million in funding and gave an update about the status of the Cumulative Effects Study. More specifically, they discussed the 310 Google database and WRDA 2007. Don also reported that they took part in a teleconference call to Washington D.C.

Liz Ching from Baucus's office was present to speak about WRDA 2007 and requests for appropriations. She stated that the reason the YRCDC had fared so well in FY2007 was because of the partnerships they have formed. She warned the Council not to expect very much in 2008, but that work could begin for 2009.

Resulting from the teleconference with Don and Nicole, the D.C. staff has requested a strategic plan for Section 3110 of WRDA 2007. Outreach to local communities will be important in this process. The Council also needs to demonstrate how they are making progress toward their current goals. Under WRDA, Section 3110, projects need to be developed and prioritized before authorization can be sought. Don Youngbauer recommended that the Council members go back to their conservation districts and

ask them for their recommendations. This, as well as the idea of a Roundtable will be added to the January agenda and discussed at that time in greater detail.

Funding for the Intake fish passage is through the Missouri river recovery program and is not part of this appropriation.

The idea of the YRCDC hosting a roundtable discussion was also discussed by Liz Ching. She said the purpose would be to invite our partners, including those partners who were not at the table before, and show where we are now, where we have been, and where we hope to go.

<u>FWP Workshop</u>: Paul Gilbert reported that he and Sweet Grass Administrator Guelda Halverson and Nicole McClain attended a FWP workshop on December 1st. Paul said that the FWP was taking a pro-active approach rather than a reactive approach concerning the listing of endangered species. They wanted input on who should be doing the proposed projects. Nicole provided a brief background on the YRCDC and explained the scopes of work. She said that Paul did a good job talking about the Russian olive BMP and upcoming demonstration project at the Cole Ranch in Hysham. The response was extremely positive with many requests for more information. Nicole said an overall theme of the workshop repeated by participants was about establishing local control through conservation groups.

MRRIC: Dave Schwarz was not present to give an update, but according to an email from Vicki Marquis of the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council, the draft MRRIC Charter Outline (v24) was published on October 21, 2007. The preamble states: MRRIC will strive to provide an essential collaborative forum for the basin to come together and participate in developing a shared vision and comprehensive plan for Missouri River recovery and then to help guide the prioritization, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of recovery actions.

<u>Vice Chairman's Report:</u> Bob Hector stated that the Yellowstone River Cleanup project was completely done and the question was what to do next. He said that he had watched a public service announcement on TV where folks were removing car bodies from the Milk River. Through a partnership with Hill County CD they identified a neutral site and completed the demonstration. Bob felt that the Council should look into doing something similar on the Yellowstone River. The Council agreed. A video of the demonstration is available.

Discussion:

<u>Intake position statement</u>: Changes in the Intake position statement were discussed. The changes will be made and the final draft will be presented at the next meeting. No action was taken at this time.

<u>Chairman's Report:</u> Don reported that he thought having a roundtable discussion would be the best thing that we could do to keep the momentum going. Don also reported on the MACD convention saying that he had an opportunity to introduce a short program by Stillwater Conservation District about resolving a dispute between a landowner and a recreator. Don gave Barbara Berry, Stillwater County CD Administrator a great deal of the credit for the success of the project. Don also gave a report on the YRCDC at one of the break out sessions. Don asked Warren to comment on the 310 Google database presentation done by Tony Thatcher of DTM Consulting. Warren explained how they created an interface between Google Maps (which utilizes Council aerial photography) and the Yellowstone Conservation District's 310 database. Now, using this interface, YCD supervisors and their administrator can access their 310-permit information through Google Maps.

Executive board meetings: Don Youngbauer invited anyone to attend the executive board meetings, and the intent of the meeting is to help him run the Council meetings more effectively. It was suggested by Paul Gilbert that the name of the meeting be changed to Coordinating Subcommittee. It was noted that no formal decisions are made in the Executive/Coordinating Subcommittee meetings.

The Coordinator reviewed agenda items for the next meeting and the Council agreed upon a date.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm. The next meeting will be 10:00 am January 24, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Watts, CCCD Administrator

YRCDC TAC Meeting Notes Billings, Montana December 11-12, 2007

Cumulative Effects

Burt Williams led a discussion on cumulative effects analysis, principles and concepts. A summary of that discussion is attached to these notes. The cumulative effects discussion will continue at the next TAC meeting in January and be a standing TAC agenda item henceforth.

Biology

<u>Fisheries</u>: George Jordan reviewed the draft Work Order #6 for mapping the fisheries habitat changes through time (1950s, 1970s, and 2001). This work order would fall under the existing GIS Services contract with DTM. There were some revisions made to the work order by the TAC. This habitat mapping will complement the full fisheries scope of work. Both Work Order #6 and the draft fisheries scope of work will be reviewed with the YRCDC at their December 13th meeting. A recommendation will be made by the TAC for adoption of both items so work can begin immediately on the habitat mapping and preparations made for the upcoming 2008 field season.

Wetlands: The draft wetlands scope of work is ready to take to the Council on December 13th. It will be suggested that the FFY08 funding for this scope will be predicated on the ACOE budget, TAC priorities, and outside contributions from other entities. The wetlands scope of work was reviewed with Tom Hinz (Montana Wetlands Legacy) and Ken Sambor (Northern Great Plains Joint Venture). They were told that the Montana wetlands program and EPA Region 8 have continually turned down requests for assistance. The YRCDC TAC has been disappointed in their lack of support and feels that they are missing a huge opportunity to complete NWI mapping along the Yellowstone River and to leverage ACOE and YRCDC funding. Ken stepped up and offered to take the Yellowstone message to his group and solicit funding to help with the wetlands scope of work. The YRCDC may be invited to their spring Joint Venture meeting that will be held in South Dakota.

<u>Avian:</u> Danielle Jones (MSU-Bozeman) gave an up-date on their field work. They have completed their second field season sampling ~ 300 sites in about 30 study reaches in all but 3 or 4 counties. Many of the sampling sites were located along braided reaches of the river with the majority in cottonwood stands. The analysis will be look at correlations with land use, riparian vegetation, geomorphology, etc. The final report and presentations to the TAC/YRCDC will occur by the end of summer 2008.

<u>Riparian:</u> Warren and Tony reviewed the proposed Work Order #5 (GIS Services contract with DTM). This work order is intended to map riparian vegetation over a 50 year period using circa 1950's, 1976-7, and 2001 photography followed by a GIS-based analysis of temporal and spatial trends associated with riparian connectivity and extent. Analysis will also incorporate data generated under the avian and geomorphology scopes of work.

Hvdrology/Hvdraulics/Geomorphology

<u>Draft Bighorn Work Proposal</u> – Some TAC members have sent comments to Ken Frazer regarding the proposed Bighorn River side channel study. The proposal was also discussed at the TAC meeting. It was suggested that representatives from the BOR study team be invited to the next TAC meeting in January to discuss the extent and methodology proposed for their study and how we can best work together to make sure data collected on both the Bighorn and Yellowstone studies will complement one another.

Human Impacts Timeline: Need to extend contract #18. Nicole will make sure this is done before the end of the year.

<u>Hydrology</u> – Hydrologic modeling has been completed on the Yellowstone River main stem down to the mouth of the Big Horn River. The Big Horn River modeling is expected to be completed by the end of the 2007 calendar year. Additional hydrologic modeling during this fiscal year below the Big Horn River will be dependent upon final FFY 2008 ACOE budget and staffing availability. We may need to again look at possible contracting options to get the work completed. This will be discussed further at the January TAC meeting.

<u>Hydraulics</u> – Eric Laux reported that Stillwater County floodplain mapping should be completed by March 2008. Dawson County is ~ 50% complete and should be fully completed by the end of September (funding dependent). There may also be a staffing problem as Roger Kay, the ACOE person doing the work, is on another assignment. USGS has collected all the bridge survey data and will be delivering that information to the ACOE before the end of the year.

<u>Channel Migration Zone Mapping:</u> Karin Boyd gave an up-date on the progress of the CMZ mapping. She will give a similar up-date to the Council at their meeting. The CMZ mapping is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 2008. An outreach strategy will need to be developed with the RAC and Council after this mapping is delivered.

Information Management/GIS

<u>Draft Information Management and GIS Development Scope of Work:</u> Nicole McClain handed out a revised version of the Information Management & GIS Dev. SOW. Several suggestions were made and this SOW will be a priority for future TAC meetings.

310 Web Application: Tony Thatcher (DTM Consulting) gave an up-date on progress being made on the 310 web application project. The prototype was demonstrated to the Yellowstone CD (November 14th) and at the MACD Convention (November 15th). There has been a great deal of interest generated from these presentations. There needs to be some additional refinements made to the Yellowstone County prototype. DNRC has been approached to serve as the host of the web site. Their initial response has been positive. The web application approach may be a vehicle for easy public access to future data sets generated from the Yellowstone CES.

BMPs and Position Papers

<u>Russian Olive Implementation Strategy</u>: John Moorhouse went over the draft RO Implementation Strategy that would accompany the Russian Olive BMP. There were a few items suggested to add. John will review the draft strategy with the Council at their meeting on December 14th.

Projects

<u>Louver Screen for Pump Sites:</u> Roger Perkins (Aquoneering) pitched a pump screening demonstration project on the Yellowstone River (Custer County) using a louver screen to keep sediment, trash, and fish out of the irrigation pumps. The TAC expressed interest in the concept, but felt that the location was inappropriate due to pivot locations being directly on the river that lie within the CMZ. A recommendation will be made to the Council to sponsor the demonstration project if a more suitable system can be found.

<u>Pryor Creek Fish Passage:</u> The TAC will recommend to the Yellowstone County CD and the Council that they jointly submit a letter of request to the Regional FW&P office to conduct an evaluation of fisheries benefits to be gained from a fish passage project on Pryor Creek. It would be information that would either make the project more competitive for outside funding or show the benefits gained would not enough to warrant the cost.

Budget

2007 Water Resources Development Act: The current WRDA legislation has the following sections that affect the Yellowstone River Basin:

SEC. 3109. LOWER YELLOWSTONE PROJECT, MONTANA.

The Secretary may use funds appropriated to carry out the

Missouri River recovery and mitigation program to assist the

Bureau of Reclamation in the design and construction of the Lower

Yellowstone project of the Bureau, Intake, Montana, for the purpose of ecosystem restoration.

SEC. 3110. YELLOWSTONE RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, MONTANA AND NORTH DAKOTA.

(a) DEFINITION OF RESTORATION PROJECT.—In this section, the term "restoration project" means a project that will produce, in

accordance with other Federal programs, projects, and activities,

substantial ecosystem restoration and related benefits, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall carry out, in accordance with other Federal programs, projects, and activities, restoration projects in the watershed of the Yellowstone River and tributaries in Montana, and in North Dakota, to produce immediate and substantial ecosystem restoration and recreation benefits.

(c) LOCAL PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with, and consider the activities being carried out by—

- (A) other Federal agencies;
- (B) Indian tribes;
- (C) conservation districts; and
- (D) the Yellowstone River Conservation District

Council; and

- (2) seek the participation of the State of Montana.
- (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$30,000,000.

SEC. 5018. MISSOURI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, MITIGATION, RECOVERY, AND RESTORATION, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND WYOMING.

- (a) STUDY.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee to be established under subsection (b)(1), shall conduct a study of the Missouri River and its tributaries to determine actions required—
- (A) to mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat;
- (B) to recover federally listed species under the Endangered

Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

- (C) to restore the ecosystem to prevent further declines among other native species.
- (2) FUNDING.—The study to be conducted under paragraph
- (1) shall be funded using amounts made available to carry out
- the Missouri River recovery and mitigation plan authorized by

section 601(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986

EPSCOR: Jim Robinson talked about this grant program available through research institutions that could benefit the Yellowstone River CES effort. This is the Department of Energy's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DOE EPSCOR). It is a "federal-state partnership program designed to help the Department lead the world in meeting today's and tomorrow's energy needs through increased competition in energy-related research and development across the entire nation". He has spoken to a researcher at Montana Tech in Butte who has secured some of these funds and is interested in the Yellowstone.

<u>2005 RDG Grant:</u> The original 2005 RDG budget and scope will need to be revised to reflect the redirection of some of the funds. Nicole will take the lead on doing a draft revision and circulate it for comments. She will also be working with Rick Duncan (DNRC) for the ultimate approval of the proposed budget table.

TAC Membership

Brent Esplin (BOR) will be stepping down from the TAC. Brent suggested that Clayton Jordan replace him as the BOR representative on the TAC. The TAC concurred and will make a recommendation to the Council to officially appoint Clayton to the TAC.

The TAC discussed potential replacements for Scott Rickard on the TAC. This person would take the lead on revising and overseeing the economics scope of work. There were a few possible candidates named. They will be contacted to determine their interest and availability.

Next TAC Meeting

The next Yellowstone River TAC meeting is scheduled for January 23rd in Billings. The YRCDC will meet the next day on the 24th.